

Highlights

This issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly* (NGM) contains estimates of natural gas data through December 2002 for many data series at the national level. National-level natural gas prices are available through November 2002 (electric utilities), or December (residential, commercial, industrial, and wellhead). State-level data generally are available through December 2002, although underground storage data are available through January 2003.

Recent analyses of the natural gas industry are available on the EIA web site, www.eia.doe.gov, under "Featured Topics" to the right side of the home page. The first two reports listed below are updated regularly. These reports are:

- *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report* — a weekly report containing estimates of natural gas in underground storage for the United States and three regions of the United States released each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the EIA Web site, except for certain weeks with Federal holidays. The report, first released on May 9, 2002, contains estimates of storage for the current and prior week and comparisons to previous periods. Links are provided to papers describing survey Form EIA-912, "Weekly Underground Natural Gas Survey," and the estimation methodology.
- *Natural Gas Weekly Update* - a current analysis of the industry each week, including information on natural gas spot and futures prices and storage activities. This page also provides links to numerous other EIA sites dealing with natural gas.
- *Short-Term Energy Outlook* - projections of energy consumption, supply, and price by type of fuel, including natural gas, for the next 18 months.

Other natural gas data and analyses may be found through the "Natural Gas" section of EIA's web site. In the center section of the home page, the user should place the cursor on "By Fuel," then click on "Natural Gas" in the drop-down menu.

New Gulf of Mexico Information

The March 2003 issue of the *NGM* includes new geographic detail on natural gas production in Tables 7 and 8. Beginning with this issue, natural gas produc-

tion from the Federal Gulf of Mexico is presented as a separate data series. In past publications, monthly natural gas production from the Federal Gulf of Mexico was included in the monthly estimates presented for Texas and Louisiana until final data were presented in the *Natural Gas Annual* (NGA). When final data for a calendar year were prepared for the NGA, production from the Federal Gulf of Mexico (GOM) was presented in the States of Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama. (Federal GOM estimates for the State of Alabama were not available on a monthly basis. These volumes were combined with volumes for Louisiana, until annual data were available.) The impact of the new presentation on published volumes of marketed production for Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama from 1997-2001 can be seen in the table below. The sum of the State estimates presented under the old format (corresponding to data shown in the February *NGM*) and the sum of the State and Gulf of Mexico data presented in the new format are identical except for the year 2000 when the new format contains revisions to Texas data for this issue.

Table 7 of the March 2003 *NGM* presents the monthly Gulf of Mexico production estimates for January 2001 through November 2002. These correspond in volume to the estimates previously contained in monthly Texas and Louisiana data that appeared in Table 7 of the February *NGM*. EIA is examining available sources and methods for this series for purposes of providing timely updates in the future and possible revisions to the published monthly data. The U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, collects information about natural gas production in the Federal offshore area of the Gulf of Mexico as part of its leasing and management responsibilities for Federal lands. They release these data on public websites in aggregate tables and well-level files with different formats and schedules. EIA will be examining how to use these data and those available from different sources to provide timely estimates. For example, for this issue of the *NGM*, EIA has estimated November 2002 production data based on the well-level data downloaded in early April 2003 from the website: <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/pubinfo/freeasci/product/freeprod.html>

Table H1. Annual Marketed Production for Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Gulf of Mexico, 1996-2001, Old and New Formats (Billion Cubic Feet)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 ¹	2001
Old Format						
Texas	6,471	6,454	6,408	6,212	6,205	6,336
Louisiana	5,290	5,230	5,277	5,276	5,069	5,414
Alabama	531	583	563	545	523	357
Gulf of Mexico	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
New Format						
Texas	5,132	5,167	5,227	5,054	5,282	5,158
Louisiana	1,628	1,505	1,552	1,567	1,455	1,547
Alabama	379	389	392	382	363	357
Gulf of Mexico	5,152	5,206	5,076	5,030	4,934	5,045

1) Data for 2000 as taken from the February 2003 NGM and the current issue do not match because of revisions for the State of Texas.